

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Methods of some shameful to others

A decision was made this month that has potential impact on the Vernonia area.

The decision was fairly simple - whether to include or exclude the state owned railroad right-of-way from Vernonia to Manning for study as a hiking, bicycling and equestrian trail in the state park system. The State Parks Division has \$200 thousand for such studies and more than double that amount has been requested.

Though there were other factors, the state's decision was based, in part, on perceived support and/or opposition. This is what we want to address.

Both proponents and opponents of any action have the right, and perhaps the obligation, to make government aware of their feelings. An example of good opposition is the work being done by opponents of the Bacon dump. They are rural and small town citizens who are fighting a state agency that has super siting power and nearly unlimited funds. They are also fighting a metropolitan area with enough population and money to make the opponents appear positively Lilliputian.

Yet they are fighting the dump with organization, using legal challenges, legal demonstrations, education and heightened public awareness as their weapons.

Opposition to the linear park study took form in some ways that were not so commendable.

Some of the opponents threatened an economic boycott of local merchants if they supported the study. The people who made the threats are economically secure. They are also aware of the fragile economic base of this community, and they know the merchants are vulnerable.

There are many ways to oppose an action. One of the most despicable is blackmail - and this was blackmail; coercion by threats.

Now, it has been suggested, those same people can go to the merchants they've already successfully intimidated, and tell them to stop advertising in The INDEPENDENT. What would be the results?

There would be no news about 4-H, scouts, city council, births and deaths, electric rates, chamber of commerce, county fair, youth baseball, Boosters, golf, library, Bacon, nuisance abatement, preschool, senior citizens, community health, school board, honor students, AFS, Jamboree, county government, school plays, church activities, etc. And there would be no place to advertise.

We urge those linear park opponents who are appalled by such tactics to speak out against the blackmailers, or accept the risk of being tarred with the same brush.

Between the Bookends

By Sandy Nimz, City Librarian

I have been told many times that change is good. So with that in the back corner of my mind I am going to make a change. I feel I'm not being fair to the library users of Vernonia.

Two years ago when I took on the job of Librarian, I explained politely that I would not give up my Saturdays; that was my day to be with my family. Not to mention that we have season tickets to O.S.U.'s home football games, which also happen to take place on Saturdays.

With this guilt weighing heavily on my mind for two years now, I am going to

change the library hours to include Saturdays. Hopefully the new hours will be easier to remember, also. Are you ready? Here goes...

Sunday...Closed
Monday...1-5
Tuesday...Closed
Wednesday...9-5
Thursday...Closed
Friday...1-5
Saturday...10-2

So now we're closed Tuesday and Thursday, I moved the four evening hours to Saturday, and we're open on Monday. This way no one will have to wait three days for the Library to open.

I won't promise to be there on each and every Saturday, but someone will be. So now, working parents, kids, or



whomever, come on down on Saturday mornings. Enjoy your Library. The new hours will go into effect the first of September, which by the way is a Tuesday, and we'll be closed. Be sure to pick up a schedule of the changes on your next visit.

I've gone on and on without mentioning that we have 7 of the books on the best seller list, in the Library right now. Come in and check us out. Keep reading, see you soon.

Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to personally thank all the people who took the time to help with the Bacon Landfill issue in the form of deciphering and typing taped depositions given by the DEQ staff and contracting teams during the contested case hearings.

Jan Bernardi typed between sessions of sewing her grandson's outfit for a wedding; Judy Riley took breaks to pump gas; Estella Morgan was preparing for a week-long school-related event in Eugene; Mary Schlenker helped during the visit of a niece she hadn't seen in a long while; Valerie DeWitt and her kids - who definitely wanted to help type; Debbie Taylor used her computer between diaper changings of her little one; Wyla Mikalow whose husband, Sandy, was freaking out over this issue, with good cause; Mike Traylor who reminisced about Army days in Germany, where he deciphered Russian-transcripts, said he always wanted to do one in English; May Eckertson heard "You want the computer again, Mom?"; Jacki Ceballos whose kids learned to ride our mini-bike while she typed; and, finally, Carol Davis set up the VYSBA baseball program for our kids and still found time to help tremendously in this endeavor - a real professional!

Despite mumblers, thick accents, ridiculous analogies and laughter, we were still able to get the depositions done. Teamwork!!

Thank you all again, so much.

Robin Traylor
Vernonia

To the Editor:

We are outside the city limits of Vernonia but have always supported it in food, gas, volunteering for many community activities, etc.

175 signed a petition but were not concerned enough to come to the meeting to hear the other sides concern of theft, vandalism, loss of privacy. We too could have signed petitions with a large amount. But we came to the meeting personally, those who could make it, and we're sure they were people not directly involved. We doubt very much if you would appreciate a petition signed from the tri-counties in favor of a dump in Vernonia-Bacon area. Vernonia is doing the same thing to those whose property and privacy will be violated. And on questionable money gain.

We can haul our water but privacy and rights cannot be bought.

Surveys say that a big dump doesn't bother people once they get used to it. Some dumps are now beautiful parks! But the dump opposition do have what-ifs and concerns just as we do with our own property along the railroad. What a terrible thing if those concerns become reality. We are asking the Vernonia people to support us as we have supported them on the dump issue. We do not want a linear park!

Vernonia should say no to this \$50,000 study. Our tax money is wasted for some pleasure time when there are more important things needed. Highway 47 needs a better road with shoulders for bikes. And the cost of putting it in is 1/4 to 1/2 million

dollars.

We are not saying that Vernonia's needs should be overlooked. Vernonia Lake is a gold mine with a lot of property to develop and people would be staying in Vernonia not passing through. Why not take advantage of it. Put it in Vernonia. It is what people want. Don't please dump on us!

Concerned Land Owners
Judy Pieren,
Kathy Allen and others
Vernonia

To the Editor:

As parents, we need to support our kids in all they do, and care enough to give up our "thing" in order to understand and do their thing with them. I feel too many parents aren't involved with what their kids do.

I saw it in sports last season, and I saw it in dramatics. It's always the same handful of parents - where are the rest of you?

When I moved to Vernonia 7 years ago, we had to go early to sports events or we couldn't get a seat. Last season I could count on my fingers how many Vernonians were in the stands. The visiting teams had more people in the grandstands. I felt embarrassed.

I know if we want our kids to have school spirit, we must be there for them. I also think this enthusiasm has to start in grade school in order to grow in high school.

I feel this way about anything these kids do, not just sports. We need parents to volunteer and help. If we want our children to be involved in school activities, we have to be there too!

Ana Worley
Vernonia

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